

Awards Event Pays Tribute To 'Empty Chair'

Jailed Greek Editor Sends Wire To OPC

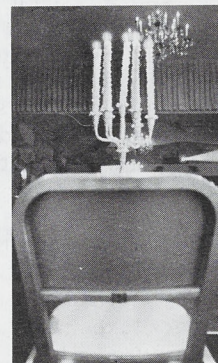
By Joseph Harrow

An empty chair on the dais paid mute tribute to a jailed Greek editor as representatives of the press, state-side and overseas, joined to honor outstanding colleagues at OPC's Annual Awards dinner at the Hotel Pierre on April 3.

John P. Kapsis, editor of *Ethnos*, the only Greek newspaper openly hostile to the military-backed regime, had been invited to speak at the dinner by *Will Sparks*, chairman of the Speakers' Committee for the evening.

News that Kapsis had been jailed reached OPC a few days before the event. Sparks and other Club representatives promptly contacted the State Department and OPC President *Hal Lehrman* cabled a protest to the Athens government. A day before the dinner however, it was learned that Kapsis had been sentenced to five years and fined \$8,000.

It was then resolved that an "empty" chair" flanked by lighted candles be reserved in the newsman's honor at the OPC affair.



The 'Witness' by Igor Bakht



James Harper, left, chairman of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, discusses jailing of John Kapsis with (l. to r.) John McAllister, Will Sparks, George Kapsis, cousin of the jailed newsman, and Spyridon Granitsas, Greek news correspondent (Bill Cheney, Photo-Media)

Former Greek Press Chief Thanks OPC

In a telegram from Paris Panos Kokkas, former president of the Union of Athenian Publishers, expressed his thanks to the Overseas Press Club for its "solidarity" in support of the "persecuted Athenian newspaper *Ethnos*."

Mr. Kokkas declared:

"As a Greek journalist and president of the Union of Athenian Publishers when the free press still existed in Greece, I wish to thank you for the solidarity manifested by American journalism to the persecuted

Athenian newspaper *Ethnos*, the only paper which raises a fearless voice of truth amid the ruins of the Greek press.

"Today's astounding verdict (imprisonment of its editors and publishers) by military court proves beyond doubt that the dictatorship, unable to coexist with press freedom, will now try to finish off *Ethnos* through economic pressure.

"I believe therefore it is a duty for us free journalists to extend all moral and material support to this valiant newspaper."

Election Results At Annual Meeting

All OPC members are urged to attend the Annual Membership Meeting to be held in the Club, Thursday evening, April 30th, at 8 o'clock.

Dinner will be served beginning at 6 o'clock in the 2nd Floor dining room. All bars and the grill will be closed promptly at 7:30 P.M.

(See page 3)

Club, Fund and Future

With another Annual Awards dinner behind it, OPC has now surmounted its 31st Anniversary — in a town strewn with the tombstones of other press clubs which are celebrating no more birthdays.

We have survived another year of the afflictions which bug all clubs everywhere in the nation: zooming labor, meat, drink and maintenance costs; the impossible race between heavy-footed dues and twinkle-toes inflation; the perils of going out at night.

In particular The Club has somehow managed to live another year since 1968, which was the Year of the Great Embezzlement and the Mammoth Deficit. And the year of 1969 — the year of the Imminent Eviction.

The secret? Simply refusing to take the general advice to drop dead. This advice has come from a variety of well-wishers.

From mathematicians whose computations of Clubhouse profit and loss come out red no matter what color pencil is used. From members of OPC's learned Bar who preach sedition and rebellion when a dime is added to the cost of a dollar martini selling elsewhere at \$1.60. From certain non — or never-newsmen, admitted into the Club when the Admissions Committee was dozing, who have been hoping to collect the pieces of a collapsed worldwide correspondents' club and glue them back together as a "New York Communications" bistro.

So far, such calculations have been foiled by just two things; spirit and purpose.

By spirit I mean the ingredient which impelled staff people from Harper's to produce a handsome and distinguished DATELINE 1970, as Esquire's people did in '69 and McCall's in '68.

I mean the drive which has induced most of OPC's members to pay a stiff assessment for inherited back taxes, with many paying extra as a free gift.

I mean the impulse for service in the hearts of a hundred or so committee members who regularly get out the Club's Bulletin, shape and promote its forums, its special events, its cultural programs, its

fight for the world-wide rights of every correspondent.

The point is to preserve something called the Overseas Press Club and its World Press Center — to shore them up and make them better than ever.

In this, the objective is not size. The objective is quality.

About 10% of the membership has resigned since the dark time of the Great Embezzlement. This fractional exodus creates a major financial problem, certainly, but not a major spiritual one — because the bulk of those who went over the side should not have been permitted on board in the first place.

There were good names, however, even some great names, on the list of the departed. These we sorely miss, not so much for their dues as for their interrupted involvement in OPC's high professional goal. We want them back.

We also want more of the younger generation of newsmen of all media.

Club and Fund

For many months the present Administration has labored to reach a settlement with OPC's offspring and "landlord," the Correspondents Fund.

The nub of it has been the Clubhouse, a building which was acquired with money raised by the Club (not by the Fund) for a World Press Center — money contributed in substantial part by individual OPCers and their friends.

The Fund from time to time has threatened to cancel the Club's fixed-rent 99-year lease, and even to evict the Club from the premises, unless sums astronomically impossible to pay were paid.

The Fund has alternatively proposed to terminate its responsibility for a World Press Center by selling the building out from under OPC at a bargain-basement price and so divide the proceeds that the Fund would be left rich far beyond its needs while the Club emerged without even cash enough to survive.

The Club has offered concession to achieve a liveable compromise. But we have declined to commit suicide.

We have refused to barter away

such shrines as the Ed Murrow Library and a Memorial Wall which bears tribute to 120 colleagues killed in action. We have insisted that the high purposes for which the original contributions were first solicited and other grants made shall continue to be honored.

Emergency Sessions

It must now be disclosed that these efforts by the Club have failed. Accordingly, at noon last Saturday, April 5, one day after the Awards Dinner and five days before the deadline for decision, your Board of Governors met in emergency session. On advice of Club Counsel Frank Wachsmith and Special Counsel George K. Hourwich, and by the overwhelming majority of 15 to 2, the Board authorized action in the Courts against the Fund to establish OPC's title to the building which bears its name.

This insures, at the least, that OPC cannot be totally severed from the present Clubhouse for an indefinite space of time to come, perhaps measured in years.

It provides a fresh opportunity to the Fund to discover that its relationship with The Club is considerably more than landlord with tenant: It allows Fund and Club more time to find a modus vivendi which will guarantee the Club's continuity, survival and stability.

Finally, it signifies that OPC can proceed with the current elections, with all scheduled and future programs, with its newly strengthened Foundation, and with all the devices planned or already instituted to cut costs and increase income.

When the Clubhouse issue has been satisfactorily resolved, as it ultimately must, that will be the time to commence taking OPC, finally and forever, out of massive real-estate, catering, office rental and other irrelevant activities and into compact headquarters where every square foot is applied to our real and prime purpose: a club of news craftsmen, with the accent on fellowship and fraternity and on service to other newsmen, to the nation and to the free world.

Hal Lehrman, President



Awards Dinner

(From page 1)

Kapsis, together with the managing editor and three publishers of *Ethnos* were jailed and fined for publishing an interview with a former minister calling for a restoration of democracy. Kapsis' projected speech was entitled: "Present-Day Working Conditions for Greek Journalists."

Late word as the dinner got under way April 3 revealed that publication of *Ethnos* had been "indefinitely suspended" following the imprisonment of its principal editors and publishers.

Dinner chairman *Clare Boothe Luce*, and guest of honor, Past President *Bob Considine*, warned that the action in Greece threatened press freedoms everywhere.

"You won't meet Mr. Kapsis," Mrs. Luce said as she gestured to the empty chair. "He's socked away for five years in jail. We had hoped to have him here tonight but, at the moment, he is in jail, an honor conferred on the many who have spoken and written in the name of freedom of the press."

Professional Risks

Mrs. Luce emphasized OPC was not taking a position for or against the political views held by Kapsis. But the Club was definitely rising to the defense of the principle involved—freedom of the press.

"I had hoped to talk about the risks of our profession," she added, "but let me read his own telegram to you which, I think, tells its own story."

Kapsis wired as follows: "May I thank your distinguished club for kind invitation. Hoped be able to talk on our profession's risks under present circumstances in Greece. Since I am now in prison, I regret it is not possible to come nor, of course, is it any longer necessary. May my silence speak for me — John Kapsis."

"John Kapsis, you've had your

say, that you're willing to go behind bars," Mrs. Luce concluded. "We honor you on your courage as a journalist." The fact that he could send the telegram indicated, possibly, "that there is still hope as far as the Greek government is concerned," she said.

Freedoms In Peril

Introducing Bob Considine, Mrs. Luce described him as one of the great reporters, a man who, despite a prodigious literary output running into millions of words over his lifetime, could "still be the most lovable man I've ever known."

Considine warned of dangerous trends toward curbs on the freedom of the press.

"The very confinement of Kapsis is proof of his stature in this profession of ours," he said. "To take the rap, to go to jail... this should be an inspiration to all of us. And whoever coined the word 'democracy' in the great days of ancient Greece, together with Aristotle, would, in today's Greece, be in the cell with Kapsis."

"On the day Kapsis went to jail," he said, "the Spanish people were informed they could forget about unloading Franco." He implied that that was the sort of information they were allowed to get. "And what about the United States?" he asked.

"We say it couldn't happen here, but are we sure? Attacks by Vice President Agnew on the media — certainly endorsed by President Nixon — have touched a strange, responsive chord. Do our people actually want the kind of press that suppresses or applauds as an Administration sees fit?

Man On The Moon

In behalf of OPC, President *Hal Lehrman* presented the President's Award "to the young American who broadcast to all of us the immortal

words — "That's a small step for man — one giant leap for mankind..."

"Sot tonight," Lehrman said, "we honor United States Astronaut Neil Armstrong for his 'mind-crushing' story, the 'first reporting from the moon.'"

The award was accepted for Armstrong by Dr. Robert Jastrow, Director, Institute for Space Studies at NASA's Goddard Space Center in New York.

Hail Dateline Staff

Lehrman lauded the Dateline, 1970 staff, headed by *Bernard Frazier* for excellent work, with added encomiums going to Denny Crimmins, Associate Publisher and Sheila Berger, Art Director for Harper's magazine and to Pat Rotter, Ladies' Home Journal for her editing job on the yearly Club magazine. He also tendered OPC's deep appreciations to Mrs. Luce and Bob Considine for their presence and service to OPC through the years, also to Dinner Secretary Jeanette Longyear.

Some 400 members and friends witnessed the presentation of the Annual Awards (covered in the April 1 Bulletin) under the direction of *Barrett Gallagher*, chairman, Awards Committee and Awards Narrator Ben Grauer. Proceeds will go to the Edw. R. Murrow Memorial Fund of the OPC Foundation. There was general agreement that it had been a warm, intimate evening in the best traditions of OPC.

Distinguished guests included Mrs. Edward (Janet) R. Murrow; William Blair, Publisher, Harper's Magazine; Edward Thompson, Senior Editor, Reader's Digest; Norman Cousins, Editor, Saturday Review; William Attwood, Editor-in-Chief, Cowles Publications. All officials and members of the Board of Governors were present on the dais. Also past presidents of OPC, Eugene Lyons, Will Yolen and John Wilhelm.

The Annual Dinner Committee Executive Vice Chairman was Stephen Korsen, member of the Board of OPC.

Camera Flashes At Annual Award



Clare Boothe Luce, dinner chairman, at the rostrum.

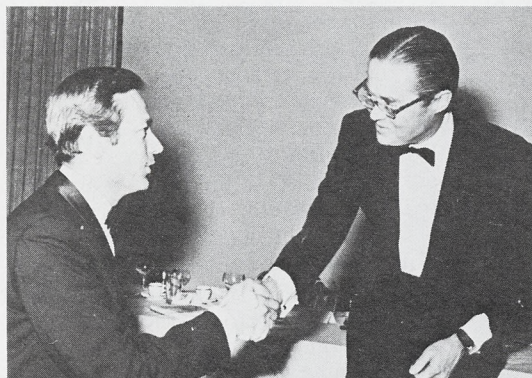


Famed photographer, Margaret Bourke-White and friend.

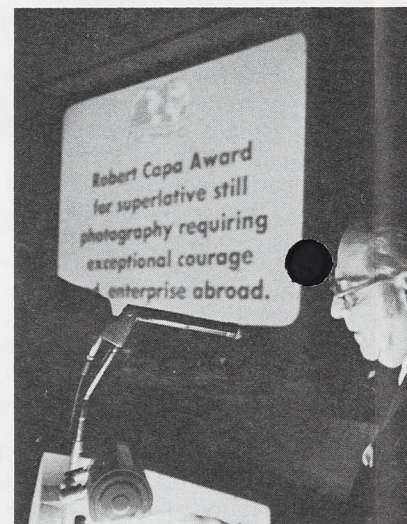


Clare Boothe Luce

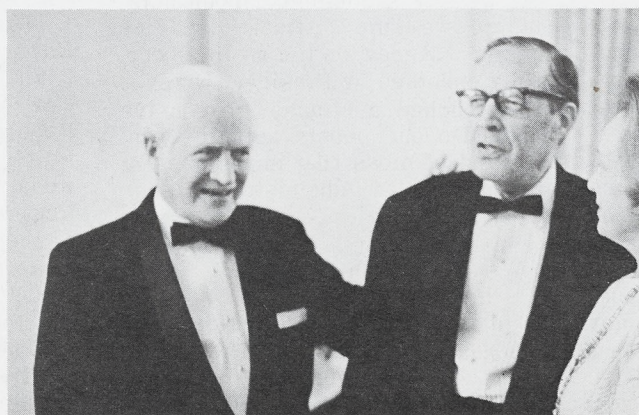
Frank Gervasi appears pretty definite in a chat with Grace Naismith.



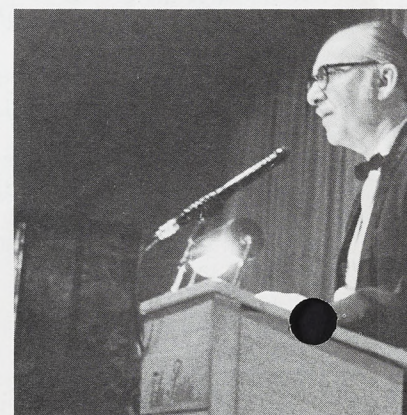
Barrett Gallagher (right) greets Earl Foell, L.A. Times, during awards ceremonies.



OPC President Hal



Mark Henahan, James Sheldon, Mrs. Ed Murrow.



ards Event



...e Luce and guests. Lin Root is at left.



Ben Grauer announcing awards as entries flash on screen.



Bob Considine makes humorous point to evident appreciation of Steve Korse.



Founder-President Eugene Lyons, and Mrs. James Sheldon.



Cornell Capa of Magnum (right) with Look Magazine's Will Hopkins who accepted award for Magnum's Marc Riboud re coverage in Vietnam.

...nt Hal Lehrman welcomes guests.



Interesting story? (L to r): Joseph Harrow; Mr. and Igor Oganessoff; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kany.

Song Recital Pulls Capacity Audience

By Herbert Kupferberg

A capacity audience in the OPC 10th-floor lounge applauded a superb song recital by Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Nancy Williams on April 6.

The young singer, who had performed a few nights earlier at the OPC Annual Awards banquet, held her audience spellbound with songs



L. to R.: Stanley Sonntag, accompanist; Jack Frummer; John Robert Lloyd, art director of Oscar-winning movie, "Midnight Cowboy;" Nancy Williams; Steve Korsen. Photo by Lisa Hoffman

The *BULLETIN* expresses appreciations to photographers Igor Bakht and Lauro Boccioletti for their picture coverage of the annual awards event.



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Bill Smith, Managing Editor

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by Schumann, Duparc, Poulenc and Joaquin Nin, and a group of Irish folk-melodies.

With a naturally warm and vibrant voice, Miss Williams has the rare ability to communicate; projecting the meaning as well as the music of each song. Particularly outstanding were her Schumann lieder and the perky French songs of Poulenc. She was also applauded warmly for her performances of a seldom-heard song by Giuseppe Verdi, "L'esule" (The Exile), and Celius Dougherty's beautiful setting of A.E. Housman's "Loveliest of Trees." One composer, John Cooper, was present to take a bow after Miss Williams sang his "Do Not Go, My Love."

Brilliant accompaniments were provided by Stanley Sonntag at the Knabe. Jack Frummer, chairman of the Music Committee, presided, and at the intermission introduced a number of musical luminaries who were in the audience.

(Critic Herb Kupferberg is the author of *Those Fabulous Philadelphians; The Life and Times of a Great Orchestra.*)

Sidelights At Awards Dinner

BOB CONSIDINE, fumbling copy of his speech a la Benchley's "Treasurer's Report" and commenting, "I think the Justice Department's subpoenaed my notes."

Then, talking about glowing introductions, recalled his own flowing tribute at a dinner to former President Truman, and how he heard the guest of honor nudge Margaret and whisper, "By God, you know that fellow's right." HST then got up and said, "Thank you, Eric Severeid."

Still on introductions:

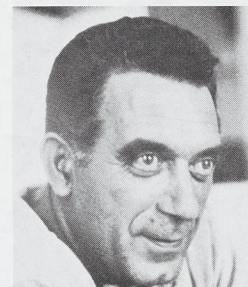
The late Cissy Patterson who always brought Considine on as her illegitimate son by Calvin Coolidge... and Considine's riposte: "Not true, it was by Harding!"

CLARE BOOTHE LUCE, on the intro subject, remembers the overflow student gathering where, after the usual eulogies she was introduced, finally, "as the famous author of that immortal classic, 'Little Women.'"

MORE ON LUCE: "I never held a press conference in my life... but lots have held me" (appropriate signs of collapse). CONSIDINE: "I have great sympathy for all presidents, past, present and future. -JH.

OPC Files Protest On Jailing of Kapsis

The OPC has strongly protested



Kapsis

the Greek government the jailing of Ioannis Kapsis, editor of the daily Athens newspaper *Ethnos*, who was to have been a guest speaker at the annual awards

dinner.

The following cable, signed by President Hal Lehrman and James E. Harper, chairman of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, was sent to Prime Minister George Papadopoulos last week:

"The Overseas Press Club of America, a society of three thousand professional journalists, vigorously protests the arrest of Ioannis Kapsis, the editor, and of other members of the staff of the newspaper *Ethnos*, and the imposition on them of lengthy and cruel prison sentences, for no reason other than their exercise of the press freedom which is a basis of all great democratic societies. Our organization is particularly saddened because Mr. Kapsis was to have described working conditions for journalists in Greece in an address at our annual dinner last Friday night. We can only hope that the government of Greece will reconsider its tragic action."

Calendar

Wed. April 15 - Edward R. Murrow World Affairs Forum - Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., Commander in Chief Pacific.

Cocktails and reception 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:30. \$7.

Tues., May 12, 8:30 P.M. - Velma Richter, Brazilian Pianist Concert.

Tues. May 25 - Barbados Regional Dinner - Barbados souvenirs; Island surprises; door prizes - Diplomatic officials will attend. \$7

All reservations not cancelled 24 hours in advance will be charged to members' accounts.

Newsman vs. Diplomat? McGurn Is Still Both

By Mark J. Henahan

An OPC past president with broad experience as a foreign correspondent is a "natural" for a successful career as a spokesman for the State Department.

Barrett McGurn gave ample proof of this as guest of honor at the Edward R. Murrow Homecoming Forum Dinner held in the Club March 16th.

"For the past few years, I've been on what is called the 'other side' McGurn declared." I have often wondered



Former OPC President Barrett McGurn chatting with OPC President Hal Lehrman at the Club's recent Homecoming.

Photo by Walter Hayum

about this relationship between the government and the press. Are they friends or are they foes? There are many people down in Washington who have convinced me that they are adversaries and, when a happy relationship exists, somebody is not doing his job."

While a reporter covering the State Department has to display considerable ingenuity in digging out facts on



Mrs. Adele Gutman Nathan (L.) exchanging notes with Mrs. Barrett McGurn at the Mar. 16 homecoming reception for Past President Barrett McGurn.

Photo by Walter Hayum

a story about a "trouble spot" in the world, McGurn said that a press officer had a dual responsibility.

"We not only have to explain to the American public what a particular policy is but we must make it work,"

McGurn declared.

After his talk, McGurn drew several questions from his many old friends present, mainly referring to the difficulty he had in "wearing two hats." But he answered them like a OPC past president should—diplomatically.

Liz Weissblatt was the producer of the event.

NEW BOOKS IN LIBRARY

A number of new books have been added to the resources of the Edward R. Murrow Memorial Library, housed on the 4th Floor of the OPC building as part of the OPC Foundation.

Given by the authors:

Prime Time: The Story of Edward R. Murrow, by Alexander Kendrick;
Conspiracy in Paris, by David Darrah;

International Airports and Frontiers are not Borders, by Colonel Stedman S. Hanks.

A periodical, *The Urban Review*, was made available by its editor, OPC member Joseph Lederer.

The following were given to the library by the publishers:

Frederick A. Praeger: *International Political Communication*, W. Philips Davison; *The United States Information Agency*, John W. Henderson; *The Objectives of the USIA*, Ronald I. Rubin.

World Publishing: *The Kingdom and the Power*, Gay Talese.

Viking Press: *Appointment on the Moon*, Robert S. Lewis.

Oxford University Press: *The Mighty Endeavor*, Charles B. McDonald.

Simon & Schuster: *The War Business*.

McGraw-Hill Book Company: *The Connoisseur's Book of the Cigar*, Zino Davidoff.

Cowles Book Company: *Arms Beyond Doubt*, Ralph E. Lapp; *A Casebook of Murder*, Colin Wilson; *The Conservation Fraud*, Charles Zurhorst; *America The Violent*, Ovid Demaris; *My Brother Lyndon*, Sam Houston Johnson.

Scarecrow Press: *Simple Library Cataloguing*, Susan Grey Atkins.

National Health Council: *Standards of Accounting for Voluntary Organizations*.

Members are invited to peruse the books at their leisure in the library.

We greatly appreciate the contribution of these volumes and the interest of the donors.

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EDITORIAL OR PR position in developing nation or Europe sought by journalist, 36, with 8 years experience in top-level positions in Europe, Africa, Mideast. Also experience on Wall Street Journal, N.Y. Post. Interviewing on East Coast in May. Box 15A, OPC Bulletin.

MAIL or DELIVER TYPED COPY to the Bulletin Office by Monday Noon, with advance payment. A 33-space line costs 50¢. Items will not be taken by telephone.

PEOPLE & PLACES

By Wambly Bald

NEW POSTS: The Toronto Telegram now has **Aaron Einfrank** heading its Washington news bureau... UPI's **Matt Kenny** transferred from Miami to Buenos Aires as new exec ass't to William H. McCall, UPI's v.p. for South America... **Barrett McGurn**, a State Dept. press officer, appointed to the 21-man committee which advises the U. S. Catholic Church on public relations. His new possession is a shining wrist watch given him as a souvenir by our recent visitor, la belle France's President Pompidou... **John McMeel**, formerly with Publishers-Hall Syndicate, is now a top exec with Universal Press Syndicate. **Werner Brandis** formerly with Chemical Week and the Journal of Commerce, has tied in with Dow Jones as copy editor... **Joe Singer**, PR director for General Foods, has become a Vice President of the USO... **Donald G. Coe**, a vet journalist associated with ABC News since its inception, named Director of News Operations. He began his career with the UP in Albany. That was back in 1935. Oh, how the years fly by!

HONORS: "Meet George Washington," an NBC/Project 20 written by **Richard Hanser**, has recently won awards from Ohio State, Freedoms Foundation and the Christophers... **Helen Alpert** got the Golden Rule award presented by the Boys' Club of America for her services as judge at its annual "Boy of the Year" event.

ART: **Josephine Lyons** is chairman of the art show at the Pepsi Cola Bldg. for the benefit of the Stang Clinic for Cancer Research.

ARTICLES: Documentary film maker **Daniel Hess**, now associated with Caribiner, Inc., had two pieces recently in Business Screen Magazine: "If You Can't Sell It, Sit On It" and "Cinema Verite: Does It Have a Place in Business Films?"... **Will Yolen's** adventures in South America, where he visited with Gainza Pas and other press notables, is a by-line feature story in Current Status Magazine... **Jeanne Toomey**

has two articles about to appear in print: "The Fine Art of Marital Scrapping," Family Weekly, and "Homemaker of the Year," Family Circle... **Anne Turner Bruno's** article on "Bosporus - Where Europe and Asia Meet" is running in the April Finnish edition of Reader's Digest.

BOOKS: Nearing completion is **Will Sparks'** newest book, "Who Talked To The President Last?" which W. W. Norton will publish. One chapter headed "Broad Jumping The Credibility Gap," appears in OPC's Dateline 1970. Sparks is also author of two books on finance.

GLOBE-TROTTERS: Religioso author **Roland Gammon**, whose "All Believers Are Brothers" made the best seller lists, went to Geneva, Switzerland early this month. He attended the second annual World Spiritual Summit Conference there... **Gunther Less**, producer of TV's "Journey to Adventure" series, back from Taiwan and Japan in connection with the series... **Margot** and **Robert Siegel** just keep moving. Now back from Aruba, Curacao and Acapulco, they'll soon be off again, this time to Hong Kong, Tokyo, and a side trip to Expo '70. Art Committee Chairman **Rachael Bail Baumel** says she had a "really terrific cruise" of the Caribbean on a Holland-American ship. The trip generated for her "a general state of euphoria," she'll have you know.



Jack Frummer with friend Colette Boky, Met opera star, at a recent OPC music night. There are rumors...

Photo by Ken Siegel

Israel Optimistic, News Panel Reports

By David Resnick

The people of Israel are confident and determined; there is complete freedom of speech and freedom of the press in the country; tourism is flourishing and American visitors return home enthusiastically pro-Israel. These were some of the observations reported by a panel of seven newsmen, back from an intensive 10-day study of that embattled land, who spoke at a Homecoming Forum dinner in the club, March 25, sponsored by the OPC Foundation and its Edward R. Murrow Memorial Fund.

Angus Deming, a general editor at Newsweek, said that it was difficult for any of the returning correspondents not to be pro-Israel. He called the Israeli Army "Spartans" and the Air Force an "elite of elites". The citizens listen attentively, he commented, as the names of the dead and wounded are given on the newscasts every hour on the hour. It was his first trip to Israel and he returned obviously filled with admiration.

Marvin Scott, New York Bureau Chief of the Mutual Broadcasting System, said: "A foreign visitor to Israel is impressed by the spirit of the people and their determination to meet a life or death challenge to stand up to the Arab Goliath wishing to throw them into the sea. In the large cities, however, there were few indications that the country is at war.

Martin G. Berck, NBC News producer, said that Israel was optimistic immediately after winning the six-day war and expected to win the peace, but now she is thinking in terms of the next generation; with the high Arab birth rate, Israel is concerned about the demographic problem of two and a half million Jews against one and a half million Arabs within her present borders.

Gerold Frank, author and Middle East specialist, who made his first trip to Palestine as a war correspondent in 1944, described the "extraordinary experience" for him personally to see the rows of modern apartment houses in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in sections he had known as barren land.

Other newsmen who spoke were Moses Schonfeld of Fairchild Broadcast News and Sam Chase, independent radio and television producer. Presiding was OPC President **Hal Lehrman**, tour leader for the trip which included 35 newsmen.